emerson theatre company

Emerson Theatre Company

130 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

William L. Sharp, *Department Chairman*

A.D. Sensenbach, *Director of Graduate Studies*

Vincent Murphy, *Acting*
Shirley Nemetz-Ress, *Acting*
Kathleen Patrick, *Acting*
Herb Propper, *Acting*
Steven Sorkin, *Acting*
Andrea Womack, *Acting*

Steven Weinstein, *Movement*

Ron Placzek, *Scenic Design*
Mary Thomasine Harkins, *Costume Design*
Catherine Szari, *Costume Shop Supervisor*

Bob Martin, *Technical Director*

Michael Bush, *Publicity*

Barry J. Drogin, *Box Office - House Manager*
Linda Manning, *Box Office - House Manager*

Rachel Weiss, *Secretary to the Department*

EMERSON THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS

Night Must Fall

by
Emlyn Williams

Scenic Design by
Ronald Placzek

Costume Design by
Mary Thomasine Harkins

Lighting Design by
Bob Martin

Technical Director
Simon Volpini

Stage Manager
Peter B. Carzasty Rodney Alton Hole

Production Stage Manager
Kevin J. Larkin

Directed by
A.D. Sensenbach

November 15-19 and November 29-December 3,1978

About Emlyn Williams and this play...

(George)Emlyn Williams was born on 26 November 1905 in a village on the coast of Wales, where his father was an iron-worker. The family spoke Welsh and, until the boy was about nine, he knew no English. In his early teens he came under the influence of a remarkable schoolteacher, who recognized his potential for learning. The details of the struggle which ensued in trying to get an education for the boy, and of his finally winning an unprecedented scholarship to Oxford, years later formed the basis for Williams' semi-autobiographical play and the subsequent film of *The Corn is Green,* which in 1941 won the New York Drama Critics Circle award for the best foreign play.

By going to Oxford he intended to become a schoolteacher, but while there he saw his first live theater performance and set his heart on having a theater career. He did some acting and wrote a play which was produced by the Dramatic Society. M.A. degree in hand, he went to London, where he met with only marginal success. Besides being unknown and having no theater "connections", as an actor he had the formidable handicap of an unacceptable accent. The solution to his career problems, he concluded, was to write a play for himself in which the leading role required a Welsh accent. To find an "idea" around which to construct such a play became an immediate need, and "fate"again stepped in.

During the summer of 1934, while reading a newspaper on a London subway train, his attention was drawn to a story about a young man who had murdered his mother and burned the body in order to collect her insurance. Such stories had always fascinated Williams and he had even taken to haunting courts where such cases were tried. A woman sitting next to him on the train stared at the photo accompanying the article and commented "Goodness gracious, look at his photo;...It's that Sidney who somebody brought to tea at my auntie's just the week before...and he had a glass of milk instead of tea...But he was so nice and ordinary..."The train stopped and she got out. Williams had his play; it would be called *Night Must Fall.* As he worked on the script, he found that actual facts are often too brutal to be acceptable on-stage, and so he modified, drawing upon accounts of five different cases. The result established Emlyn Williams among the first ranks of both British actors and playwrights. In the years since then he has played major roles in countless productions and films throughout the world,

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Synopsis of Scenes

Prologue: The Court of Criminal Appeal,London.
Act one:The sitting room of "Forest Corner",Mrs. Bramson's bungalow near the edge of Epping Forest in Essex, England, on a morning in October, 1935.

TEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION

Act Two:
Scene one:Mid-afternoon twelve days later
Scene two:About 6:00 PM two days later.

TEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION

Act three:
Scene one:Nightfall, half an hour later.
Scene two:Half an hour later.

THE CAST
(in order of appearance)

The Lord Chief Justice.....PETER B. CARZASTY
Mrs. Bramson.....LAURA STACEY WEINER
Olivia Grayne, her niece.....LISA FAITH KATZE
Hubert Laurie.....BRIAN SHAW STRICKLAND
Nurse Libby.....MARTHA JUSSUAME
Mrs. Terence, Mrs. Bramson's cook..DOROTHY AUFIERO
Dora Parkoe, Mrs. Bramson's maid.....SYNDI ZOOK
Detective Inspector Belsize.....WILLIAM J. SMITH
Dan.....DONALD J. GOODWIN

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and has directed both film and stage plays. Boston audiences will also remember his visits here with one-man readings from the works of Charles Dickens and of Dylan Thomas. He has published two volumes of autobiography: *George*(1961)and *Emlyn*(1973), and in 1963 Queen Elizabeth made him a Commander of the British Empire. Now 73 he lives in London.

Night Must Fall opened in London on 31 May 1935. The author played Dan, Dame May Whitty played Mrs. Bramson, and Olivia was played by Angela Baddely, whom we foundly remember as Mrs Bridges in *Upstairs Downstairs.*

Aside from the enormous popularity of the play for some forty years now, *Night Must Fall* remains a classic of construction of dramatic tension and suspense. It was the first play to focus upon a psychopathic killer, thus establishing a dramatic genre still widely popular. Another of its inovations lies in the fact that it tells the audience at the start how the story will end, and then devotes itself to revealing how and why it happens.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Shop Carpenter: Jose Ballester

Master Electrician: Susan DeCausemaker

Assistant to the Scenic Designer: Emily Breeden, Suzanne Steinberg

Assistant to the Costume Designer: Stacey Bagdin

Costumiere: Catherine Szairi

Cutter: Luanne Ives

Costume Run Supervisor: Chad Shipley
Costume Run Crew: Donzaleigh Abernathy,Nancy McKenzie

Costume Construction: Students of TA 103

Assistant to the Lighting Designer: Susan DeCausemaker

Lighting Run Crew: Joe Mauricio, Victoria Dupenza

Lighting Put-in: Students of TA 103

Assistant to the Technical Director: Judi Holmes

Prop Head: Carol Richardson

Make-up: Bobbi Brown

Publicity: Michael Bush

Assistant to the Publicity Director: Peter B. Carzasty

Box Office and House Managers: Linda Manning, Barry Drogin

Set Construction: D. McGee, B. Cameron, K. Caracciolo, R. Paige, D. Galile and the Students of TA 103

Special Thanks: Ms. Ann Gifford, Abbot Memorial Library, Mass. College of Art, SIM Dept., Boston University Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, Harvard University, Shell's of England Antiques, William Schmidt and the Berkeley Beacon.

Emerson Theatre Company
1978-79 Season

The Crucible - Arthur Miller
October 11-15, 18-22

Night Must Fall - Emlyn Williams
November 15-19, 29-December 3

Twelfth Night - William Shakespeare
March 14-18, 21-25

Loft Productions (69 Brimmer Street)

Bus Stop - William Inge
December 7, 8, 9

The Good Doctor - Neil Simon
March 29, 30, 31

Please do not eat or drink in this theatre
The taking of pictures is prohibited
Smoking is not permitted in the Theatre

emerson college

130 beacon street

boston